



**Fourmile Creek Watershed Management Authority  
Meeting Minutes**

**July 24, 2014 AT 4 PM**

Public Services Building

City of Ankeny

220 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street

Ankeny, Iowa

Those in attendance were as follows:

Karen Oppelt, City of Altoona

Gary Lorenz, City of Ankeny

Amy Bryant, City of Ankeny

Mark Arentsen, City of Bondurant

Frank Cownie, City of Des Moines

Skip Moore, City of Des Moines

Bob Mahaffey, City of Des Moines

David Miller, City of Des Moines

Jeb Brewer, City of Des Moines

Ben Champ, City of Pleasant Hill

Bret VandeLune, Polk County

Cindy Valin, Polk County SWCD

Jennifer Welch, Polk County SWCD

Rich Leopold, Polk County Conservation Board

Mark Land, Snyder & Associates, Inc.

Kyle Riley, Snyder & Associates, Inc.

Teva Dawson, Des Moines MPO

Clifford Leonard, Guest, Polk County Resident

- I. Call to order – Ben Champ
- II. Approval of the minutes from April 24, 2014 meeting. Motion by Cindy Valin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Lorenz, motion carried.
- III. Watershed Management Plan Update – Mark Land
  - a. Two groups meeting: policy and infrastructure
  - b. Infrastructure Meeting on May 12, 2014 – Discussion on this meeting centered on: establishing a monitoring program, working on getting a stream corridor, reserving the 500-year floodplain within the greenway/corridor, and requirement of water quality volume and channel protection volume. Rich Leopold pointed out the difference between the 100 and 500-year flood plains is that the 500-year flood plain reaches up into the tributaries.

- i. Policy, Education, & Communication Meeting on May 29, 2014 – The members discussed the need for consistency throughout the watershed, clearer standards throughout jurisdictions, and focus on sediment and e. coli for monitoring with nitrate a secondary concern at this point. Rich Leopold explained the monitoring parameters selected is based on the future use of the creek or creek designation. Jennifer Welch talked about the land use and how that impacts the amount of sediment that gets into Fourmile. Dave Miller asked about adding phosphorous to that and they discussed that the phosphorous is attached to the sediment and by capturing the sediment it will in turn help with the phosphorous problem.
  - c. 3<sup>rd</sup> meetings for both groups are scheduled (Infrastructure and Policy).
  - d. Looking ahead – reach out to respective councils and boards to review the goals and objectives developed and share that information. Gary Lorenz felt an executive summary of what the group is and how we got to the point we are at for councils and boards would be a useful tool.
- IV. Fourmile Creek Property Acquisition Update – Dave Miller (?) talked about the sponsored access grant that the city of Des Moines and Polk County has. The City of Des Moines is going to acquire the property. A meeting was held with first targeted 20 owners, 12 are interested, 3 are not interested, 1 is in tax sale status, and 8 still need to indicate what they want to do.
- V. Discussions on Funding Opportunities
  - a. Mark Land indicated that Polk Co was declared a presidential disaster area for hazard mitigation funding and rules would allow Fourmile WMA to apply for a grant to have additional buyouts below the existing 100 year floodplain. Work would be with the City of Des Moines.
  - b. Jennifer Welch indicated that the DNR will have a RRP coming out for late August for planning dollars for WMAs. There will be \$200,000 available for the whole state, maximum would be \$150,000 (draft amount) with funds available at the beginning 2015. A 25% match would be required with \$10,000 needing to be in cash. Mark Land indicated that this ties into sharing information with the councils/jurisdictions and may be useful to share the funding opportunity. It is possible do monitoring or work with upstream property owners with this funding opportunity, but will have to wait to see what the exact wording of the RFP asks for. The group needs to have a really good application so that there is a good chance against other regional WMAs. A question was posed: how does the Fourmile WMA stack up against others? Mark indicated that this group is in a good place, is ahead of many other WMAs, and has already reached the implementation phase (buyouts) while others are just in the planning stage. Jennifer shared a WMA map. A suggestion was made to have a map showing the features that have been implemented in the watershed so far and could also be useful to add to any applications.
- VI. John Swanson with Polk SWCD talked about Big Creek Watershed – He talked about how the program got started, the nutrients and sediments present, and how they did an assessment to determine amount of sediment getting into Big Creek. Goals are to reduce

bacteria reduce sediment/phosphorous with the biggest loads coming from geese and livestock. The use of a goose service has helped with the amount of geese on the beach. Some practice implementation success: use of grassed waterways to reduce sediment load – funding is CRP (90% cost share with yearly income, WPF and 319 funding for others); CRP incentive (\$100 acre sign up bonus), water and sediment control basins, streambank stabilization (recreational land uses, not livestock owners), and grade control structures. Some practices: cattle exclusion and cover crops. Some project difficulties: lack of terrace implementation (few actual possible locations), landowners not taking responsibility for what is happening on their field, and project management. In the area of education/outreach; most success: one on one field visits and targeted outreach. Field days/workshops have not been as successful. Big Creek Appreciation Day has had 200 to 300 visitors and that helps connect watershed residents with the resource they are trying to protect. The group has a Facebook page. Some of the questions and discussion with John as follows. The watershed is 48,000 acre – 4 tons per acre per year of sediment runoff are lost. Are programs voluntary? Yes, they are. There was discussion on the need for an individual like John to do the same work in the Fourmile watershed – need boots on the ground to build relationships and get practices in the watershed. A good funding source is not available for bank erosion. The group also discussed the goose population and how that is a major issue.

VII. Other discussion items – No other discussion items.

VIII. Adjournment – Gary Lorenz motioned, Bret VandeLune seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.